

## CLAIMS

1. A pixel circuit for driving an electro-optical element changing in luminance according to a flowing current, comprising:
  - 5 a data line to which a data signal in accordance with a luminance information is supplied;
  - first, second, third, and fourth nodes;
  - first and second reference potentials;
  - a reference current supplying means for supplying
- 10 a predetermined reference current;
- an electric connecting means connected to the second node;
- a pixel capacitor element connected between the first node and the second node;
- 15 a coupling capacitor element connected between the electric connecting means and the fourth node;
- a drive transistor forming a current supply line between a first terminal and a second terminal and controlling a current flowing in the current supply line in
- 20 accordance with the potential of the control terminal connected to the second node;
- a first switch connected between the first node and the third node;
- a second switch connected between the third node
- 25 and the fourth node;

a third switch connected between the first node  
and a fixed potential;

a fourth switch connected between the second node  
and a predetermined potential line;

5 a fifth switch connected between the data line  
and the fourth switch; and

a sixth switch connected between the third node  
and the reference current supplying means, wherein,

10 between the first reference potential and the  
second reference potential, the current supply line of the  
drive transistor, the first node, the third node, the first  
switch, and the electro-optical element are connected in  
series.

2. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
15 the electric connecting means includes an interconnect for  
directly connecting the second node and the coupling  
capacitor element.

3. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the electric connecting means includes a seventh switch  
20 selectively connecting the second node and the coupling  
capacitor element.

4. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, further  
including:

25 a seventh switch connected between the first node  
and the electro-optical element and

an eighth switch connected between the first node  
and the data line.

5        5. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, further  
including:

a seventh switch connected between the first node  
and the electro-optical element and  
}  
an eighth switch connected between the first node  
and the fourth node.

10      6. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 3, further  
including:

a seventh switch connected between the first node  
and the electro-optical element and  
an eighth switch connected between the first node  
and the data line.

15      7. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 3, further  
including:

a seventh switch connected between the first node  
and the electro-optical element and  
an eighth switch connected between the first node  
20      and the fourth node.

8. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the predetermined potential line is shared together with  
the data line.

25      9. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the drive transistor is a field effect transistor, a source

is connected to the third node, and a drain is connected to the first reference potential.

10. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 2, wherein, when the electro-optical element is driven,

5               as a first stage, in a state where the first, second, fourth, fifth, and sixth switches are held in a non-conductive state, the third switch is held in the conductive state and the first node is connected to a fixed potential;

10              as a second stage, the second, fourth, and sixth switches are held in the conductive state, a predetermined potential is input to the second node, the reference current flows in the third node, and the predetermined potential is charged in the pixel capacitor element;

15              as a third stage, the second and sixth switches are held in the non-conductive state, further the fourth switch is held in the non-conductive state, the fifth switch is held in the conductive state, the data propagated through the data line is input to the second node, then the 20 fifth switch is held in the non-conductive state; and

                  as a fourth stage, the first switch is held in the conductive state, and the third switch is held in the non-conductive state.

11. A pixel circuit as set forth in claim 3, wherein, 25 when the electro-optical element is driven,

as a first stage, in a state where the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh switches are held in the non-conductive state, the third switch is held in the conductive state, and the first node is connected to  
5 the fixed potential;

as a second stage, the second, fourth, sixth, and seventh switches are held in the conductive state, the data potential propagated through the data line is input to the second node, the reference current flows in the third node,  
10 and a predetermined potential is charged in the pixel capacitor element;

as a third stage, the second and sixth switches are held in the non-conductive state, further the fourth switch is held in the non-conductive state, the fifth  
15 switch is held in the conductive state, the data propagated through the data line is input to the second node via the fourth node, then the fifth and seventh switches are held in the non-conductive state; and

as a fourth stage, the first switch is held in  
20 the conductive state, and the third switch is held in the non-conductive state.

12. A display device comprising:

a plurality of pixel circuits arranged in a matrix;

25 data lines interconnected for each column of a

matrix array of the pixel circuits and supplied with a data signal in accordance with the luminance information;

first and second reference potentials; and

a reference current supplying means for supplying

5 a predetermined reference current, wherein

the pixel circuit has:

an electro-optical element changing in luminance according to a flowing current;

first, second, third, and fourth nodes;

10 an electric connecting means connected to the second node;

a pixel capacitor element connected between the first node and the second node;

a coupling capacitor element connected between

15 the electric connecting means and the fourth node;

a drive transistor forming a current supply line between a first terminal and a second terminal and controlling a current flowing in the current supply line in accordance with the potential of the control terminal

20 connected to the second node;

a first switch connected between the first node and the third node;

a second switch connected between the third node and the fourth node;

25 a third switch connected between the first node

and a fixed potential;

a fourth switch connected between the second node  
and a predetermined potential line;

a fifth switch connected between the data line

5 and the fourth switch; and

a sixth switch connected between the third node  
and the reference current supplying means, and,

between the first reference potential and the  
second reference potential, the current supply line of the  
10 drive transistor, the first node, the third node, the first  
switch, and the electro-optical element are connected in  
series.

13. A method for driving a pixel circuit having  
an electro-optical element changing in luminance  
15 according to a flowing current;

a data line to which a data signal in accordance  
with luminance information is supplied;

first, second, third, and fourth nodes;

first and second reference potentials;

20 a reference current supplying means for supplying  
a predetermined reference current;

an electric connecting means connected to the  
second node;

25 a pixel capacitor element connected between the  
first node and the second node;

a coupling capacitor element connected between the electric connecting means and the fourth node;

a drive transistor forming a current supply line between a first terminal and a second terminal and

5 controlling a current flowing in the current supply line in accordance with the potential of the control terminal connected to the second node;

a first switch connected between the first node and the third node;

10 a second switch connected between the third node and the fourth node;

a third switch connected between the first node and a fixed potential;

a fourth switch connected between the second node

15 and a predetermined potential line;

a fifth switch connected between the data line and the fourth switch; and

a sixth switch connected between the third node and the reference current supplying means, wherein

20 the current supply line of the drive transistor, the first node, the third node, the first switch, and the electro-optical element are connected in series between the first reference potential and the second reference potential, comprising steps of

25 holding the third switch in the conductive state

and connecting the first node to a fixed potential in the state where the first, second, fourth, fifth, and sixth switches are held in the non-conductive state;

holding the second, fourth, and the sixth  
5 switches in the conductive state and inputting the predetermined potential to the second node, sending the reference current in the third node, and charging the predetermined potential in the pixel capacitor element;

holding the second and sixth switches in the non-  
10 conductive state, and further holding the fourth switch in the non-conductive state, holding the fifth switch in the conductive state and inputting the data propagated through the data line to the second node, then holding the fifth switch in the non-conductive state; and

15 holding the first switch in the conductive state and holding the third switch in the non-conductive state.